AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 (original). A method of stimulating neuronal growth or repair comprising exposing a target neuron or neuronal area to a solution of the metallothionein isoform MT-IIA.

2 (original). A method according to claim 1 wherein said contact is by direct interaction of the target neuron or neuronal site with said solution.

3 (currently amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said MT-IIA is naturally occurring human MT-IIA.

4 (currently amended). A method according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein said MT-IIA is produced by chemical synthesis or by production in genetically manipulated cells or organisms.

5 (original). A method according to claim 4 wherein said MT-IIA is recombinant human MT-IIA.

6 (currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 wherein said solution has a concentration of up to about 5μg/ml metallothionein in a neurologically acceptable carrier.

7 (original). A method according to claim 6 wherein said solution has a concentration of about 5 μg/ml metallothionein in solution.

8 (currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1 further including exposing said neuron or neuronal area to any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-I, MT-II, MT-III and MT-IV.

9 (original). A method according to claim 8 wherein said target neuron or neuronal area is exposed simultaneously to a combination of MT-IIA and any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-I, MT-II, MT-III and MT-IV.

10 (original). A method according to claim 8 wherein said target neuron or neuronal area is exposed sequentially to a combination of MT-IIA followed by any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms from MT-I, MT-II, MT-III and MT-II.

11 (original). A method according to claim 8 wherein said target neuron or neuronal area is exposed sequentially to a combination of any one of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-I, MT-II, MT-IIA, MT-III and MT-IV.

12 (currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 11~~ claim 11 wherein said neuron or neuronal area is located in the brain.

13 (currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 12~~ claim 1 wherein said solution is administered to said neuron or neuronal area by any one or a combination of direct injection, intraperitoneal injection, oral administration or via genetically modified cells including stem cells.

14 (currently amended). A method of treatment of Alzheimer's Disease comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~claim 1.

15 (currently amended). A method of treatment of Parkinson's Disease comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of ~~any one of clams 1 to 13~~claim 1.

16 (currently amended). A method of treatment of motor neuron disease comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~claim 1.

17 (currently amended). A method of treatment of head injury comprising administration to a patient in need of treatment a therapeutic composition including metallothionein in accordance with the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 13~~claim 1.

18 (original). A therapeutic composition adapted for topical administration to an area of neuronal compromise said composition characterised by metallothionein isoform MT-IIA as an active ingredient.

19 (original). A composition according to claim 18 wherein said active ingredient is combined with any one or a combination of metallothionein isoforms selected from MT-1, MT-II, MT-III and MT-IV.

20 (currently amended). A composition according to claim 18 ~~or 19~~ wherein said metallothionein is naturally occurring human MT-IIA.

21 (currently amended). A composition according to ~~any one of claims 18 or 19~~ claim 18 wherein said metallothionein is produced by chemical synthesis or by production in genetically manipulated cells or organisms.

22 (original). A composition according to claim 21 wherein said metalliothionein is recombinant human MT-IIA.

23 (currently amended). A composition according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 22~~ claim 18 further including a neurologically acceptable carrier particularly adapted for a topical administration to an area of neuronal compromise.

24 (original). A composition according to claim 23 adapted for direct topical application.

25 (original). A composition according to claim 23 adapted for intraperitoneal or intravenous administration to effect exposure of neurons by a non-topical route.

26 (currently amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 17~~ claim 1 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the examples.

27 (currently amended). A composition according to ~~any one of claims 18 to 25~~ claim 18 substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the examples.